

skill in close combat and small unit tactics. Colonel Walker was highly regarded for his tactical and leadership skills. His decorations included two Silver Stars, the Purple Heart, a Presidential Unit Citation, a Navy Unit Commendation and the Legion of Merit.

A devoted military historian, he published two books and numerous articles, many on the Revolutionary War. His book, "So Few the Brave," is the definitive history of the Rhode Island regiments in the Revolution.

Colonel Walker served as president of Middletown Little League and was a volunteer for the Sachuest Point Wildlife Sanctuary. He was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, and the Middletown Historical Society.

Colonel Walker leaves behind Judith Walker, his wife of 57 years, three sons, William W. Walker of Winston-Salem, NC, Daniel A. Walker of Hartford, CT, and Lt. Col. Andrew D. Walker, USMC, retired, of Poolesville, MD; and six grandchildren.

Colonel Walker was a man of integrity and honesty, a leader respected and loved by his family, friends, colleagues and military alumni in the Newport area. He will truly be missed.

CWO DAVID H. GARDNER JR.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to honor CWO David H. Gardner Jr., an Iowa native who was killed when his UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter went down near Fort Hood in Texas. A 1991 graduate of Mason City High School in Mason City, IA, David Gardner served as a helicopter pilot assigned to the 4th Infantry Division's A Company, 2nd Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment. He had previously served in the Iowa National Guard before going on active duty in the 1990s. From October of 2003 until the following April, Chief Warrant Officer Gardner served his country in Iraq.

I ask my colleagues in the Senate and all Americans to join me today in paying tribute to Chief Warrant Officer Gardner. My deepest sympathy goes out to his friends and family, and particularly the 7-year-old daughter he leaves behind. It is my hope that she grows up knowing of the tremendous sacrifice her father made for his country and the deep appreciation America has for him. Chief Warrant Officer Gardner will always be honored as a hero who gave his life for his country, and he will be greatly missed.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of a letter be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the letter was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE,
Washington, DC, November 19, 2004.

Hon. BILL FRIST,

Majority Leader, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. LEADER: The Department of Defense takes great pride in its longstanding

and rich tradition of support to the Boy Scouts of America. Accordingly, the Department of Defense supports the proposed Concurrent Resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the Department of Defense should continue to exercise its statutory authority to support the activities of the Boy Scouts of America, in particular the periodic national and world Boy Scout Jamborees.

Sincerely,

DONALD RUMSFELD.

GEORGIA AND THE TRUTH ABOUT SOUTH OSETIA

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about the republic of Georgia, America's ally in the war on terror and partner in Iraq.

I am not sure if you are aware of this, but the republic of Georgia has dispatched 150 of its troops to participate in the coalition that liberated Iraq and is now assisting in the rebuilding of that country. Last month, the Georgian government announced that it would nearly quintuple its number of forces in Iraq.

In recent weeks, much has been heard and seen of the political crisis in Ukraine. A little more than 1 year ago, a similar crisis befell Georgia following its November presidential election. As with Ukraine, the election results appeared rigged in favor of the ruling party candidate.

As we all know, the people of Georgia, through a group of brave, young reformers, patriots, and democrats, brought about historic political change in that country. Known now as the Rose Revolution, the forces of democracy, led by Mikhail Saakashvili, prevailed in Georgia and forced then-President Eduard Shevardnadze to resign. During the past year, President Saakashvili's government has dramatically reformed the Georgian government, instituting far-reaching political, economic, and legal reforms. And, just last month, the U.S. Senate passed S. Res. 472 honoring the 1-year anniversary of the Rose Revolution and recognizing the achievements the Georgian government has made in democratizing that country.

I would like to focus the remainder of my remarks on a small region in the republic of Georgia called South Ossetia, a place I'm sure relatively few Americans have heard of. But the potential for violence in this region was highlighted by the vicious terrorist attack in September of this year against a school in North Ossetia—in Beslan, Russia, just over the border from Georgian South Ossetia.

In 1991, the Soviet Union dissolved and many republics gained independence, including Georgia. But almost since the beginning, some in Russia did not accept the end of the Soviet empire. Russian overt and covert pressure worked to undermine the new-found sovereignty among bordering countries. No former republic was subject to more pressure than Georgia. Russia refused to withdraw its troops—a refusal that continues even today, some 13

years after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

In South Ossetia (in north central Georgia), as well as in Abkhazia (in western Georgia), disputes broke out shortly after independence. In both South Ossetia and Abkhazia, Russian forces aided ethnic separatists as a way to weaken Georgia. They sent arms, money, "volunteers" and military advisers. In South Ossetia, Russian President Boris Yeltsin negotiated a ceasefire in 1992 and forced Georgia to accept Russian and North Ossetian "peacekeepers." In 1994, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (now the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe or OSCE) took responsibility for diplomatic efforts and monitoring in South Ossetia with the full support of the Georgian government. In 1999, the OSCE added monitoring of the Chechen-Georgian border, and later the Ingush and Dagestani portions of the Georgian border.

For 10 years following the OSCE's involvement in South Ossetia, several things happened. First, it became clear that the OSCE was unwilling or unable to take effective measures to resolve the separatist conflict—chiefly because Russia has a veto in the OSCE. The "peacekeeping" force has the Georgians outnumbered and out-gunned by South Ossetians, North Ossetians, and Russians. Any effort to expand the OSCE beyond its limited monitoring role or limited geographical area is opposed by Russia. The OSCE mission is unable to monitor Russian violations of Georgian airspace and only rarely uncovers illegal arms shipments. While individuals working in the OSCE mission perform admirably under difficult conditions, the unavoidable fact remains: the OSCE mission in Georgia is deeply and structurally flawed.

The second major development was in the economy of South Ossetia. Deeply isolated from the rest of Georgia but having a land link to the Russian Federation, South Ossetia became a giant smuggler's market—in effect criminalizing its entire economy. Cigarettes, alcohol, drugs, arms, and foodstuffs all came in duty-and-tax free. A massive open-air black market operated with impunity in Tskhinvali, the provincial capital of South Ossetia. Profit from the contraband smuggling and sale was distributed among Russian border guards, Russian military officers, and corrupt South Ossetian officials. Some foreign diplomats even suggested this smugglers paradise was positive because it provided employment and low-cost goods.

Earlier this summer, Georgian President Saakashvili decided the long-festering status quo was unacceptable—as it would be to the head of state of any democracy. What leader could tolerate separatists armed and sustained by a foreign power, the same foreign power that refuses to withdraw its own illegally stationed troops? What leader could tolerate a massive contraband market supplied directly from Russian